

Discussion Notes of the Amherst Public Arts Commission, February 3 2012

Town Room in the Amherst Town Hall, 2:05 p.m.

Present: Terry Rooney (Chair), Rachel Hankinson, Bonnie Isman, Randa Nachbar,
Absent: Diane Westfall, Trish Smallman, Rosario Gaddier, Jim Wald (Select Board liaison)

Due to problems with posting the meeting 48 hours in advance, an informal meeting was held for discussion only.

1. **Minutes** of September 1, 2011 were reviewed and amended.
2. Terry Rooney explained that Diane Westfall is not able to participate actively due to serious illness, but she wants to help with committee work, when possible. Terry hopes to recruit new committee members. Randa Nachbar will contact a potential member. Since Diane is not able to act as APAC's Treasurer, Rachel Hankinson volunteered to step in temporarily.
3. **Report on Fall Workshop.** Preparations for Rachel Hankinson's Lantern Workshop on Oct. 30 were complicated due to difficulties communicating with LSSE staff. Despite 10 registrations for the workshop, only 4 attended. Possible reasons for the light attendance: impending major snow storm, delayed publicity, no deposit or fee required at registration, LSSE's emphasis on sports and not arts programs. The workshop itself went beautifully.

Rachel is willing to offer this workshop again, since we have the supplies, as a way of raising the profile of APAC in the public eye. Bonnie Isman brought up the possibility of meeting with Jean Jeffers who organizes craft programs for the Friends of Jones Library to co-sponsor with them. Alternatively, it could be co-sponsored with a school as an after-school opportunity. Ideally, it would be held at the East Street School.

4. **White House Project.** Terry met with Jane Wald from the Emily Dickinson Museum, Peter Krasznegewicz (the teen artist), and others to plan an exhibit of approx. 40 white boxes shaped like houses, bearing words from Emily Dickinson's poems, along Main Street during May-June, 2012. Terry shared a video at <http://vimeo.com/30819550> showing part of this exhibit at Deerfield Academy. The Historical Commission has approved use of the Gates lot and the ED Museum, but we still need an indoor location for two of the houses. Bonnie will see if Jones Library will participate and Terry will contact Nacul Center. In addition to the houses, the artist will distribute approx. 500 wooden squares to school art classes for students to create artwork or poetry as part of the exhibition. All wood from the houses will be donated to Habitat for Humanity to use in construction projects after the end of June.

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Terry will be assisting with publicity for the White Houses exhibit and helping to pave the way in use of Town space for public art. There will be an opening at the ED Museum on May 12 and a reception during the June Art walk. There is no cost to APAC as a co-sponsor of this event.

5. Update on Amherst Biennial. The committee congratulated Terry on receiving a grant of \$1,800 from the Amherst Cultural Council to help pay costs for running the Amherst Biennial. The grant will go for space rental, publicity, and honoraria for artists' presentations. Terry is also going to seek Mass. Cultural Council Adams Grant funds for printing the exhibit catalog, for curatorial services, and basic operations. Terry hopes that Town Manager John Musante will find funds to support this event as did his predecessor. Media sponsorship and corporate underwriters were discussed.

"Art in Expected and Unexpected Places 2012" will be the theme and will take place in October-November. Art curators from Amherst College and UMass will assist Terry as the selection jury. Amherst College will provide space in front of the Mead Art Museum for an installation, and UMass is giving us space outside the Hamden Gallery, plus an incubator space next to it. UMass is working on banners to hang at the front of the Fine Arts Center which would also be a great backdrop for projections. Hampshire College was also asked to participate. Terry hopes to begin the Call for Art next week, accepting applications through the end of April.

6. Kendrick Park sculpture. Terry's letter to the editor of the Amherst Bulletin has stirred up interest in retaining Matt Evald Johnson's "Portal" in Kendrick Park. He has agreed to a price of \$10,000. Town Planners are looking into funding possibilities. Terry suggested that the Portal's site may change as plans for Kendrick Park progress.

Next Meeting: Friday, March 2 at 2 p.m.

Adjourned 3:35 p.m.

Submitted by Bonnie Isman